

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

APPLICANT: Jean Georges SERIAL NO.: 10/706,627 FILED: November 12, 2003 FOR: A VEHICLE RECOVERY UNIT WITH A MOVABLE LOADING RAMP FOR TRANSPORTING DISABLED VEHICLES	Art Unit 3652 Examiner: Fox, Charles A. Attorney Docket No.: 10012
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RULE 115 AMENDMENT

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

Please accept this Rule 115 Amendment, in response to the non-final Office Action mailed January 17, 2006. A fee transmittal sheet is attached, containing directions to charge Applicant's attorneys' deposit account 502734 for a one-month extension of time, through and including, May 17, 2006.

IN THE TITLE

Please cancel the existing title, and substitute the following in its place:

-- A VEHICLE RECOVERY UNIT WITH A MOVABLE LOADING RAMP FOR
TRANSPORTING DISABLED VEHICLES --.

IN THE ABSTRACT:

Please cancel the existing Abstract and substitute the following in its place:

-- ABSTRACT

A vehicle recovery unit, such as a car carrier, for transporting disabled vehicles, having a movable ramp supporting a loading platform. The loading platform may be hydraulically moved over a travel distance substantially longer than the travel distance of an associated cylinder rod.

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IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Please make the following revisions to the specification Revised (bracketing for deletions,
/underlining for additions) and clean copies of the specification are attached.

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel Claims 1-6 and replace them with new Claims 7-15, as follows:

7. (New) A device for loading and unloading disabled vehicles, the device having a vehicle chassis supporting a loading ramp capable of tilting on the vehicle chassis, comprising:

 a loading platform supported by and slidable along the loading ramp, the loading platform being movable between a fully loaded position in which the loading platform substantially nests over the loading ramp, and a fully extended position in which the loading platform has been moved to a location which is substantially rearward of the loading ramp;

 wherein the loading platform employs a cylinder which enables movement of the loading platform over a travel distance substantially twice as large as a travel distance of a cylinder rod moving within the cylinder; and

 wherein the cylinder is associated with at least first and second cable elements, and whereby extension of the cylinder rod causes the loading platform to move in a first direction along a longitudinal axis of the vehicle chassis, and retraction of the cylinder rod causes the loading platform to move in a second direction opposite to the first direction, wherein the second direction is also along the longitudinal axis of the vehicle chassis.

8. (New) The device of Claim 7, wherein the first and second cable elements

comprise one or more of the following: chains or cables.

9. (New) The device of Claim 7, wherein one or more pulleys arranged on a shaft are driven by the cylinder rod and adapted to move the at least first and second cable elements.

10. (New) The device of Claim 9, wherein the shaft is arranged transversally to an end of the cylinder rod and the shaft is pivotally mounted on a movable bearing block slidably connected to the loading platform.

11. (New) The device of Claim 7, wherein the vehicle chassis supports the cylinder.

12. (New) The device of Claim 7, wherein the loading ramp is capable of tilting with respect to the vehicle chassis.

13. (New) The device of Claim 12, wherein the loading platform is slidably mounted on the loading ramp using at least one sliding block capable of sliding along the loading ramp and to which the loading platform is connected.

14. (New) The device of Claim 13, wherein the at least one sliding block is connected to the loading platform using a pivot with a transversal axis.

15. (New) The device of Claim 14, wherein two sliding blocks are employed, each of which is slidably mounted on a side of the loading ramp.

Remarks

Pending Claims 1-3 were rejected as anticipated or obvious in light of prior art, and Claims 4-6 were objected to as being in improper form as based on a multiple dependent claim. This latter rejection is now moot in light of the new claims. These pending Claims 1-6 have been canceled, and new Claims 7-15 are presented here.

As requested, a certified copy of the French patent application is attached.

New, formal drawings, labeled as such, are provided. Due to the difficulty in communicating with the French inventor, the drawings have not yet been revised to show the sliding block connection between the loading ramp and the cylinder rod, but preparations are being made to address this issue.

Regarding new Claims 7-15, it is not believed that any new matter has been added. However, it is requested that the Examiner make a careful search to confirm this.

As requested, the specification has been carefully revised, so that it has been clarified, per the attached labeled "Revised Specification."

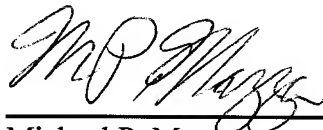
The §§ 102, 103 rejections are respectfully traversed for the reasons now presented. Neither Farrell nor Pewthers discloses or suggests the claimed recitation that "the loading platform employs a cylinder which enables movement of the loading platform over a travel distance substantially twice as large as a travel distance of a cylinder rod moving within the

cylinder....” Nor does Herrell remedy this deficiency.

Applicants note that French Patent No. 0303156 , corresponding to French Application No. 2,852,374, have now received notice from the French Patent Office that an independent claim, corresponding to a mix of original claims 1 and 4, has been allowed. Upon receipt of these papers, they will be forwarded to the Examiner.

Accordingly, pending the items Applicant still needs to provide, an allowance of pending Claims 7-15 is respectfully requested. If the next written communication is intended to be other than a notice of allowance, Applicant requests that the undersigned be contacted prior to the issuance of such communication.

Respectfully submitted,



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